(c) to (e) In pursuance to orders passed by the Supreme Court of India on 2nd November, 2001, a written communication has been sent from the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry to the Health Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, requesting them to take necessary action to ensure prohibition of smoking in public places and to take necessary effective steps to give wide publicity to the orders of Supreme Court in electronic and print media so that the general public are aware that prohibited in public places and as such they should comply with the orders of the Supreme Court. Further, an advertisement has been issued by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry in leading newspapers/electronic media giving wide publicity to the orders of the Supreme Court for similar compliance by the general public. The State Governments/ Union Territories and respective authorities are required to take action against persons violating the Supreme Court orders.

**Hospital charges by CGHS approved hospitals in Hyderabad**

4555. SHRI N. R. DASARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some hospitals approved by CGHS in Hyderabad insist on making payment for the hospital services availed by CGHS beneficiaries and the patients get reimbursement from the CGHS ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for not having a uniform procedure in the matter; and

(d) whether the hospital charges are in excess of the approved rates of CGHS, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Private hospitals/diagnostic centres have been recognised under CGHS, Hyderabad along with revised ceiling rates for various medical procedures/tests/investigations *vide* Department of Health's O.M. No. S-11011/38/2001-CGHS-II/CGHS (P) dated 23-12-2002.

Para 10, para 11 and para 12 of the aforesaid O.M dated 23-12-2002 specifies the various categories of CGHS cardholders in whose cases reimbursement of medical expenses is either made directly to the hospital by CGHS/concerned Department or to the concerned CGHS beneficiary. Accordingly, the recognised

private Hospital give credit facilities only in the case of the specified categories of CGHS cardholders/emergency medical conditions. Government employees covered under CGHS get reimbursement of medical expenses from the Dept. concerned where they are working.

(d) As para 11 of the aforesaid O.M. dated 23-12-2002 and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into by the Government with each of the CGHS recognised private Hospitals, these hospitals/diagnostic centres cannot charge the CGHS beneficiaries more than the ceiling rates prescribed in the said O.M.

**Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi**

4556. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted a Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi to provide medical assistance to helpless and poor people;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) how Government would help the poor and needy patients to obtain the aid for getting themselves cured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi has not been set up recently. Only the name of National Illness Assistance Fund which was set up in 1997 has been changed as "Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi" *vide* Government's Resolution No. W-11011/2/2003-NIAF dated 8-4-2003. The Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi provides financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the Government/Superspeciality Hospitals/Institutes. The financial assistance to poor patients is released in the form of 'one-time grant'.

**India as Global Health Care Destination**

4557. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to embark upon a grand scheme to make India the hub of global health care destination;